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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it May Concern:

I'm writing today to pledge support from the Butte Local Development Corporation for the Basin Creek Butte Watershed Project, #63295.

This watershed provides approximately 60% of the water to the city of Butte, and is not replaceable by other sources. Currently, the watershed is surrounded by beetle-killed trees and is at risk for a catastrophic wildfire, further amplified by climate change.

The forest conditions in the region are similar, and controlling fire in this situation would be next-to impossible, putting thousands of homes at risk throughout the region.

The economic impact of a large fire in this landscape would be devastating, and the negative health impacts of a fire, in a valley already impacted every year by distant fires, would be dangerous for our aging population.

The opportunity to abate this risk also provides jobs in renewable forest products, and potentially helps create new sustainable forest products.

I am urging the Forest Service to use all available authorities to expedite portions of this project wherever possible.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Kelly Sullivan, Executive Director
Butte Local Development Corporation